Jama Masjid and so on, how does it say that the ASI has not included any heritage building in Delhi in the Central list. I think there is some mismatch in the information.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, through you, I would like to tell Dr. Karan Singhji that there was some semantic confusion between ancient monument and heritage structure.

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair)

So, I was referring to ancient monuments and the hon. Member referred to heritage structures. That was the reason for this confusion. Otherwise, we are taking care of all ancient monuments under ASI. There are many ancient monuments, which are not under ASI or under the State Governments, and therefore, we are thinking of Heritage Sites Commission so that this could be done.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Unified Transport Authority

*101. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry proposes to set up a Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority for coordinated planning between the States and the Centre for controlling the vehicular movement in urban areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed authority is a part of the National Policy on Urban Transport;

(d) whether any consultation has been held in this regard with the Chief Ministers and Transport Ministers of the States; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) There is no proposal of the Ministry of Urban Development to set up a Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority for coordinated planning

between the States and the Centre for controlling vehicular movement in urban areas. "Urban Transport" is a State subject and therefore measures to address traffic and transportation related matters are required to be taken by the respective State Governments. However, with a view to ensuring coordinated planning among various agencies of the State Government, engaged in different aspects of urban transporation, the draft National Urban Transport Policy has recommended that the State Governments set up Unified Metropolitan Transport Authorities.

The draft National Urban Transport Policy was discussed with the Chief Ministers and Transport Ministers of the States on the 29th of June, 2005. Apart from the suggestion regarding the Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority, the draft policy also recommends according priority to public transport and non-motorized transport and adopting innovative financing methods for required investments. It offers Central Government's financial support, by way of equity/viability gap funding for mass transit systems in large cities.

While there was overwhelming support for the policy, suggestions relating to including smaller cities within the ambit of the Policy and making suitable amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 were made in the said Conference.

Menace of beggars

*†103 DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the number of beggars and other vendors is on the constant rise at the traffic signals on Delhi roads;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that accidents on roads are rising as a result thereof; and

(c) if so, the measures Government propose to take to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR):(a) In the absence of any reliable data, itis not possible to indicate the increase/decrease of the number of beggars and other vendors at the traffic signals on Delhi roads.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Bimba Raikar.